

Amendments to the Specification:

Please make the following amendments to the specification. Material to be inserted is in **bold and underline**, and material to be deleted is in ~~strikeout~~ or (if the deletion is of five or fewer consecutive characters or would be difficult to see) in double brackets [[]].

Please replace the paragraph found on page 1, lines 10-18, of the specification, with the following replacement paragraph:

This application incorporates by reference in their entirety for all purposes the following U.S. patent applications: Serial No. **10/716,719** [[____]], filed November 19, 2003, ~~titled ADJUSTABLE BONE PLATES, and naming Randall J. Huebner and Steven P. Horst as inventors;~~ Serial No. **10/717,401** [[____]], filed November 19, 2003, ~~titled GUIDE SYSTEM FOR BONE REPAIR DEVICES, and naming Randall J. Huebner and Steven P. Horst as inventors;~~ Serial No. **10/717,015** [[____]], filed November 19, 2003, ~~titled BONE PLATES WITH SLOTS, and naming Randall J. Huebner as inventor;~~ and Serial No. **10/717,399** [[____]], filed November 19, 2003, ~~titled BONE PLATES WITH REFERENCE MARKS, and naming Randall J. Huebner as inventor.~~

Please replace the paragraph found on page 7, lines 3-13, of the specification, with the following replacement paragraph:

Deformable bone plates, as described herein, may be attached to or otherwise associated with bone using any suitable method or procedure. For example, a surgeon

may (1) select an appropriate plate, (2) reduce (set) any fracture(s) or other discontinuities in the bone (at least partially), (3) fasten the plate to opposite sides of the fracture using suitable fasteners, such as screws, pins, and/or wires, to fix the bone, and (4) deform the plate to adjust reduction of the fracture. These steps may be performed manually and/or mechanically, for example, using a guide system as described in the following patent application, which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety for all purposes: U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/717,401 ([____]), filed November 19, 2003, ~~titled GUIDE SYSTEM FOR BONE REPAIR DEVICES, and naming Randall J. Huebner and Steven P. Horst as inventors.~~

Please replace the paragraph found on page 13, lines 3-17, of the specification, with the following replacement paragraph:

The openings may have any suitable shape and structure. Exemplary shapes may include circular, elliptical, rectangular, elongate, etc. The openings may include counterbores configured, for example, to receive a head of a bone screw. The openings may be threaded or nonthreaded, and each bone plate may include one or more threaded and/or nonthreaded openings. In some embodiments, the plates may include one or a plurality of elongate openings (slots) extending axially and/or transversely along each bone plate. The slots may include counterbores that provide compression when bone screws are advanced against the counterbores. Alternatively, or in addition, the slots may be used to adjust the position of bone plates and/or plate portions relative to bone before the plates are fully secured to the bone. Further aspects of openings or

slots that may be suitable for deformable bone plates are described in more detail in the following patent applications, which are incorporated herein by: PCT Patent Application Serial No. PCT/US02/18623, filed June 10, 2002; and U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/717,015 [[____]], filed November 19, 2003, ~~itled BONE PLATES WITH SLOTS, and naming Randall J. Huebner as inventor.~~

Please replace the paragraph found on page 14, lines 8-14, of the specification, with the following replacement paragraph:

The bone plates generally may be formed unitarily, as one piece, or as two or more pieces. Deformable bone plates of two or more pieces may be configured to include both a deformation region and a movable joint. Further aspects of bone plates with movable joints are described in the following patent application, which is incorporated here by reference: U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/716,719 [[____]], filed November 19, 2003, ~~itled ADJUSTABLE BONE PLATES, and naming Randall J. Huebner and Steven P. Horst as inventors.~~

Please replace the paragraph found on page 22, lines 10-22, of the specification, with the following replacement paragraph:

Figure 8 shows fractured phalanx 66 with bone plate 130 secured to the phalanx and gripped with gripping tools 150. The gripping tools may be towel clamps or pliers configured to opposingly grip the bone plate. The gripping tools may have an adjustable

and a locked configuration, or only an adjustable configuration. Each gripping tool may include jaws 152 that engage the bone plate on the inner and outer surfaces of the bone plate. Accordingly, one of the jaws may be configured to be thin enough to slide between the bone plate and bone, as shown here. The gripping tools may be connected to each other or may be separate. In some embodiments, the gripping tools may be connected by articulating handles that permit bending and/or [[an/or]] twisting deformation of the bone plate. The gripping tools may be placed on opposing sides of a desired site 154 of deformation within the bone plate. Opposing torques, shown at 156, 158 exerted on the deformation site with the gripping tools may deform the plate and adjust the disposition of the bone portions relative to each other, shown at 160.